

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

## ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY/TOWN OF GOSHEN WATER SHORTAGE

### SITUATION REPORT # 4

1600 Hours June 22, 2007

*New information is in bold italics.*

### SUMMARY

The Town of Goshen water system was shut down on 14 June due to a leak that occurred on 13 June. A local emergency was declared at 1100 hours, 14 June. Actions are being coordinated to identify leaks in the system and alleviate the adverse conditions.

### EXECUTIVE ACTION

**EOC Activation:** Virginia Emergency Operations Center is at ***Response Operations*** and augmented with limited staff.

**State of Emergency:** Governor Timothy M. Kaine declared a state of emergency on June 20, 2007 in the Commonwealth of Virginia, directing state agencies to take all necessary actions to aid in the response and recovery from a water outage in the town of Goshen in Rockbridge County.

**Protective Actions:** Local Emergency Declared: Rockbridge County declared a local emergency on 14 June 2007

### WEATHER FORECAST

**Rockbridge County: Friday:** Mostly sunny. A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 80s. West winds around 10 mph. Chance of rain 20 percent. **Friday night:** Partly cloudy. A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evening. Lows in the mid 50s. Variable winds. Chance of rain 20 percent. Saturday mostly sunny with a high near 80. Calm wind.

### OPERATIONS SECTION

**ESF 5 – Emergency Management:** Continuing to coordinate conference calls with locality and impacted state agencies while producing and distributing State Situation Report. VDEM Mobile Command Unit and 2 support vehicles were deployed. Additionally, a Communication Interoperability Officer, Operations Officer, Maintenance Officer, and Communications Officer are on scene to support coordination and communications. Staff has established amateur radio capability using the Lexington VHF Repeater as backup if needed. Communications checks are being conducted on a scheduled basis.

Local Liaison: VDEM Local Support Services Region Six Coordinator will be relieved by VDEM Region Three Coordinator on 22 June, 2007. VDEM Local Liaison section augmented with limited staffing to accept requests for assistance.

### EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

#### **ESF 8 – Public Health & Medical Services: VA Department of Health (VDH)**

VDH Office of Drinking Water staff has been on scene since 14 June assisting in identifying leaks. VDH Office of Drinking Water staff is monitoring town's emergency water supply needs while having mobilized for rapid water sample collection and arranged for laboratory testing of water samples, in anticipation that the Town's water delivery problems will be corrected. This will expedite use of the system by residents as soon as possible following lifting of the Boil Water Advisory, but as of 22 June, the "boil water advisory remains in effect. The VDH Southwest Public Information Officer is on scene assisting in the preparation of public information. ***VDH is***

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*in contact with three area hospitals in order to detect and investigate any disease outbreak related to potential water contamination.*

## **ESF 16 – Military Support: VA National Guard (VNG)**

Advance personnel from the National Guard arrived on scene on 21 June to evaluate the situation. ***Two dozen soldiers, five Humvees, and six water trailers from the 266<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company of the Va. National Guard arrived in Goshen 22 June. Plan to have VaNG resources on site through Monday 25 June.***

## **HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH**

### **ESF 6 – Mass Care, Housing and Human Services: American Red Cross**

The Red Cross continues to feed response and repair workers while assisting with water and information distribution.

## **LOGISTICS SECTION**

### **ESF 7 – Resource Support: VA Department of Emergency Management**

Rockbridge County Emergency Management requested additional communications support from the State so that the operation would not tie up the EMS channels in the county. VDEM provided a repeater and 6 handheld units to assist with the operations. An additional 10 land lines, fax capability and interoperability radios are operational as of 21 June. ***Fifteen requests for assistance have been received; seven have been completed, one is on hold, one has been cancelled, and six are assigned.***

**ESF 15 – External Affairs:** VDEM and VDH Public Affairs are coordinating Public Affairs support to Rockbridge County and the Town of Goshen. A dedicated PIO line is now operational at the local EOC (540) 997-7275.

## **LOCAL ACTIVITIES**

The water outage continues in the town of Goshen and an Information & Assistance Center has been established for Goshen residents, at 540-997-7267 or 540-997-7268. The town continues to search for and repair leaks in its water system to restore the water supply. Current efforts are focusing on identifying and repairing the primary source of the leaks. ***Twelve leaks have been identified and 11 repaired as of 22 June.*** The VA Rural Water Association, the Town of Craigsville, Augusta County, and local contractors McClung Brothers and Enviro-Clean are also assisting local officials with leak detection and attempting to locate additional water main leaks. More than ***18,000 gallons of drinking water and non-drinking water have been distributed to citizens and more is on the way. National Guard completed distribution the morning of 22 June and will continue distribution this evening.*** Water distribution is available at Town Hall and water is being delivered to residents who are incapacitated or unable to drive.

Even though water may begin to appear in the Town system, a voluntary conservation request has been issued, and Goshen residents are asked not to use the water. Conserving water will enable operators to more accurately locate leaks, and to more quickly restore the system to normal operation. Residents also are asked to make sure that all taps and faucets are closed.

To ensure adequate fire protection is in place, fire departments in adjacent communities have been placed on stand-by. A local Boy Scout Camp in the Goshen area has opened its facilities to area residents without water for showering and bathing through Friday, 22 June. ***Southern Baptist Association has supplied a free shower trailer and laundry service to assist the residents, Friday through Sunday 8 a.m.-8 p.m.***

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